

The St. Peters family who live in the Alton area are all related and are descendants of Pierre Boulanger dit St. Pierre of noble birth who came to Quebec, Canada in the year 1661 from France. His descendants lived in the vicinity of Trois Riviere, P. Q. Canada for several succeeding generations. In the year 1812 my great greatgrandfather Oliver Henry St. Pierre was born in Maskinonge P. Q. Canada. He with his three brothers Cyril, Basil, and Louis left Canada as young men and came to the United States. From 1847 to 1854 Oliver was a lead miner in Benton, Wisconsin. Around 1847 he married Sophia La Mirande also of noble birth, being a descendant of Jacque Delunion La Mirande also of noble birth, the only member of royalty to live in the City of Louiseville, P. Q. Canada at that time. A daughter Mary Sophia was born in 1848. My Great Grandfather Antoine was born in Benton, Wisc. in 1850 and baptized in St. Patrick's Church there by the famous early missionary priest Father Samuel Mazzuchelli O. P. In 1854 lead mining was on a steady decline since the Mexican War ended. In the fierce part of winter around January 1854 Oliver set out with his little family undoubtably by boat and settled in Elsah, Illinois where John was born in March 1854. According to the Jersey County History Oliver came to the Elsah area and homesteaded on a piece of property north of the village. He and his sons also cleared the land and slid the timber off the top of the Bluffs east of Elsah to be picked up by river boats. In 1867 Sophia Marie married a civil war veteran from Ohio by the name of Edmond Devene, this was the same year her mother died in Elsah. They had five children all died except Mary Elizabeth born 1872 at Elsah, Illinois. Edmond's wife Mary Sophia died in 1874 of measles and pneumonia. Edmond took Mary Elizabeth age two and moved back to Wharton, Ohio so she could be raised by his brother Thomas Devene. Mary Elizabeth married Charles Benjamin and they had three children Bessie (Mrs. Orville Dean), Nellie (Mrs. Harley Baughman) and Hazel (Mrs. Lloyd Sworden). All raised families in the Carey, Ohio area.

John St. Peters who was born 1854 at Elsah, Illinois married Sarah Tonkinson in 1876. They had eight children Louise, Walter, Cora, Mamie, Grace, Oliver H. and Ruth. Walter married Elizabeth Jenkins and their children were: Viola, David, Elmer, Donald and Virgil. Donald and Virgil operate St. Peters Hardware.

Antoine St. Peters married Magadelena Kohlmiller in 1874. She was born in Germany and died in 1878 four years after the birth of my grandfather Edward. Antoine then married Magadelena's sister Maggie in 1879. Of this union were born Antoine, John, Phillip, Jacob and Oliver H. They married as follows:

Oliver H. married Julie Berger and had one daughter Lillie.

Antoine died as an infant.

John married Emma True and they had three children, Herbert, Ruby, and Hazel.

Phillip took his own life.

Jacob married Blanche Simpson and they had Harold, Annetee, Paul, Charles, Nellie and Ralph.

Edward my Grandfather born in 1874 near Elsah married Louise YOung in 1898 at Jerseyville, Illinois officiated by Father Marks.

Louise was born in a log cabin near the present Lock Haven Country Club in 1876. She was the daughter of Louis Young and Barbara Ratschen both of Germany. Edward and Louise had three living children Leonard A., Emmett and Helen all born near Elsah, Illinois and Baptised at St. Michaels Church, Beltress, Illinois.

Helen married Clemens Wendle and they had three children Clemens Jr., Patricia and Jo-Ann.

Emmett married Irene Jackson of Clifton Terrace, Illinois and they had two sons Robert E. and Ronald. Emmett's second marriage was to Hazel Louise Hodges of East Alton, Ill.

Leonard A. my father married Helen V. Boercker of Alton in 1921. Helen was the daughter of Otto Boercker and Mary Sheehan, both families of long residence in Alton. After my mother's death he married Ruth B. Heidemann.

Otto was a barber for over forty years, remembered for his shop near 3rd and Belle St. and also at State St. and Grand Ave. His father William Boercker was born in Prussia in 1840 and operated a bakery shop in Alton East of Henry St. from 1867 to 1880. William married Catherine Hill widow of Mr. Reis.

Mary Sheehan was the daughter of Mary Mahon born in 1850 and John Sheehan born in 1853 both of Ireland. Mary came to Alton around 1864. John worked on the Alton railroad and was killed on same in 1880.

Marie was the second daughter of Otto and Mary Boercker. She married Albert H. Waters of Godfrey, Illinois and they have five children Delores, Donald, Mary Sue, Jerome, and Joyce. Mr. Waters has acquired nationwide recognition as a polisher of semi precious stones which he uses in his Gematta Crosses. A colored picture will appear in the Easter edition of the Lapidary Journal 1964.

Leonard A. St. Peters born 1900 and Helen Boercker born 1901 had two sons. Leonard Otto born 1922 and myself Robert E. born 1923 Alton, Illinois.

Leonard O. married Patricia Pfeffer of St. Louis Missouri and they have four children Leonard Michael, Mary Kathleen, and Theresa. Leonard served in the Army as a Captain in World War II.

Robert E. married Helen Loretto Lowrey June 12, 1948 in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania at St. Philomenas Church. Helen is the daughter of the late John C. Lowrey and Loretto Dugan of Philadelphia. John was the son of Conner Lowrey who served in the Civil war (Pennsylvania Co. I 195 Regiment Infantry) Conner was the son of Hannah Lowrey born 1810 in Pennsylvania. Loretto Dugan was the daughter of Patrick Dugan and Ellen O'Connell, the latter being a descendant of the famous statesman Daniel O'Connell. I, Robert E.

and my wife Helen have four children Robert B., Helen E., Joan M., and Janice M. (Twins). I served in the Navy aboard the Aircraft Carrier "Ben" Franklin CV13 during World War II. The Carrier was damaged extensively by bombs off Japan. Congressional Medal Winner Comm. T. J. O'Callahan the chaplin formed the 704 Club, one of the most exclusive in the world. It comprises the 704 crew members out of 3000 who remained aboard the ill fated Carrier after the attack, and brought her back from Japan to New York under her own power. I am proud to be a member of this Club.

(S) Robert E. St. Peters
Robert E. St. Peters
1806 State Street
September 4, 1963

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St. Peters

A BRIEF HISTORY AND GENEALOGICAL CHART TRACING THE
BOULANGER DIT ST. PIERRE FAMILY

By: Robert E. St. Peters

I was always curious about who my ancestors were, and their origin. Another question in my mind was the origin of our sur-name St. Peters. I remember as a young boy questioning my grandfather Edward St. Peters about many of these things.

From 1959 to 1970, as a hobby, I made a serious effort to put the ST. PETERS story together. My wife Helen, I and our four children, combined our vacations and camping trips with my genealogical research. While I was in some court house, or Church under a shade tree. This endeavor was all interrupted, when in 1970, I became involved as an officer in a local Historic Preservation group called Alton Area Landmarks Assoc. As a result all my spare time was consumed in this project. My genealogy research suffered, I felt very bad about this, as I knew many members of the family were interested in my finishing my original project.

I am distributing a very brief history and genealogical chart as a stop gap. It will be enough for people to pick out a relative and build their own tree. Please note, that it is my intention to produce a booklet and more detailed chart, and I would appreciate you sending me all birth dates, marriage and death records of your family. Please arrange the chart somewhat as I have done, in order for me to figure out who belongs to whom.

A BRIEF FAMILY HISTORY

In the mid-1600's TOUSSAINT BOULANGER and his wife Marie Avisse immigrated to Canada from Rouen, France. A very common practice in those days among the early French Canadians, was to use two last names. For example: BOULANGER DIT ST. PIERRE were the names used by our ancestors. "Dit" in French means "also known as". The word Boulanger means "baker".

Your direct ancestor lived in the Quebec Province of Canada as did his ancestors, until the 1840's, when Oliver Henri St. Pierre and his wife Sophia La Mirande came to the lead mine area of Benton, Wisconsin, where Oliver worked with pick and shovel in the bowels of the earth, under very primitive and dangerous conditions. Oliver had three children, Mary Sophia, Antoine and John (Jean Baptiste). Antoine was baptized in Wisconsin by the famous early Missionary priest Rev. Samuel Mazzuchelli, of whom several books have been written. Circa 1854 Oliver and his family arrived in Portage De Sioux, where at that time there were several families of French origin. It was here in Portage that John (Jean Baptiste) was baptized in St. Francis Church. Shortly thereafter, Oliver moved his family across the Mississippi river to the Elsah, Illinois area. In 1858 he bought 80 acres nearby.

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Although St. Pierre's have been roaming around the U.S.A. since the very early days of our nation, this was the first St. Pierres in this part of Illinois. The St. Peters began a life of farming and logging. In fact the St. Peters have been living and farming in the Elsah, Beltrees and Jersey County area for 130 years. Many of the daughters also married farmers, so the name St. Peters is intertwined with many of the well known farm families of the area. The only family that I know, who bears the name St. Peters, and is still farming, are the descendants of Jacob and live near Kane, Illinois. Many of the farm boys started leaving and becoming carpenters and joining other trades. In turn now, their sons and daughters have entered in the professions of engineering, nursing, teaching, accounting, law, medicine and accounting. Life rolls on from a simple beginning. It may be worthwhile noting, that anyone in the area of the complex of Alton, Illinois, and bearing the name St. Peters is related.

In my 63 years of observing the St. Peters family, I would describe them as follows: The nature of most members of the St. Peters family has been to work very hard and to be frugal with their money. They are a gentle mild people and slow to anger. If there is one strong characteristic to make note, I would say it is independence. They have a strong desire for freedom from authoritative measures. This characteristic, is probably handed down from the life of a farmer, who has the freedom to rule his own piece of turf. Most St. Peters that I know, prefer spending their energies with some form of productive labor. Although, some are tall in stature, most are short. Of course all the girls are beautiful. For the most part the St. Peters continue to enjoy the simple things of life, living in their own family circle of friends, and continuing to enjoy the fruits of their rich heritage and labors. As far as religion there is a mixture of Protestant religions and Roman Catholics.

For those who care to update my records, please mail to the address listed below. I hope you enjoy reading about your illustrious ancestors.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. St. Peters". The signature is fluid and personal, with "Robert E." on the left and "St. Peters" on the right, separated by a stylized dot.

Robert E. St. Peters
1806 State St.
Alton, Illinois 62002

2-4-1987

BOULANGER DIT ST. PIERRE

(1ST ANCESTOR IN CANADA)

TOUSSAINT BOULANGER MARRIED IN 1635 - ROUEN, FRANCE

(1ST ANCESTORS IN U.S.A.)

ANTOINE TARSILLE LOUIS BASIL GENEVIEVE CYRILLE OLIVE

OLIVER HENRI B. JUNE 5, 1812 ST. PIERRE P.Q. CANADA

SOPHIA LA MIRANDE

MAGADELNA KOHLMILLER ANTOINE ST. PETERS BAPTIZED FEB 2, 1850 ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BENTON, WISC.

(2ND MARRIAGE) (1ST MARRIAGE)

LENA KOHLMILLER

JOHN ST. PETERS BAPTIZED JULY 16, 1854 ST. FRANCIS CHURCH PORTAGE DE SIOUX, MO.

LOUIS ETHEL WALTER CORA MAMIE GRACE OLIVER HENRY RUTH

MARY SOPHIA ST. PETERS B. 2-19-1848 EDMUND DE VENE

LUCY BELLE JOHN THOMAS MARY ELIZABETH

EDWARD ST. PETERS BORN JUNE 28, 1874 ELSAH, ILL.

LOUISE ST. PETERS B. 11-10-1913 BELTREES, ILL CLEMENS WENDLE

HELEN V. BOERCKER B. ST. LOUIS, MO.

LEONARD ANTOINE ST. PETERS B. DEC. 22, 1900 BELTREES, ILL

EMMETT EDW. ST. PETERS B. FEB. 29, 1908 BELTREES, ILL.

IRENE JACKSON (1ST MARRIAGE) LOUISE HODGES (2ND MARRIAGE)

ROBERT EDWARD B. DEC. 7, 1933 M. VIRGINIA RYULE

RONALD EUGENE B. OCT. 1, 1935 M. MELBA DYKMAN

ROBERT E. ST. PETERS B. SEPT. 20, 1923 ALTON, ILL.

ROBERT BRENDAN B. APRIL 15, 1949 DARBY, PA.

HELEN KAREN BLIGH M. KAREN BLIGH

HELEN ELICE B. JUNE 16, 1951 DARBY, PA.

M. LYNN REHN

JOAN MARIE B. MAR. 19, 1954 M. JOHN CARTER

JANICE MARIE B. MAR. 19, 1954

LEONARD OTTO ST. PETERS B. SEPT. 20, 1922 PATRICIA A. PFEFFER B. ST. LOUIS, MO.

LEONARD MICHAEL B. DEC. 29, 1949 ST. L. MO.

M. PAM SCHMUTZ

MARY CAROL B. JULY 10, 1952 ST. L. MO.

KATHY ANN B. FEB. 11, 1954 ST. L. MO.

M. ALBERT SPRING

TERESA MARIE B. OCT. 8, 1960 ST. L. MO.

MARGARET MARY B. OCT. 20, 1963 ST. L. MO.

M. PAUL CROWE